

The Cablevision board knowingly decided to disband its Voom HDTV Service and chose to divide its assets and sell the Rainbow 1 Satellite and licenses separately from its subscriber base. This would be acceptable if there were no other interested parties.

However, through various media articles it is clear that Charles Dolan has formed his own Company VOOM HD LLC and intends to bring HDTV to TV viewers of the United States. If the FCC lets these licenses change hands to Echostar, the new privately held company will be forced to change satellites and incur great costs because they were not given the opportunity to purchase the satellite and the licenses. This could result in the demise of a potential third Satellite provider that would have brought more competition to the US Satellite Market.

What is not clear is why some members of the Cablevision board refused to sell the assets as a package to a potential buyer (Charles Dolan). Instead they are selling assets separately. Selling a satellite subscriber base without a satellite surely indicates that they have no interest in competition in the US satellite market. This also leaves an estimated 40-50 thousand customers without service. Echostar has had the opportunity to purchase the subscriber base and has declined. I would suggest that an investigation of the Cablevision sale of Rainbow 1 and its licenses be done before a final FCC determination is made.

I am a very satisfied Voom customer and plan to continue as long as they are given the opportunity to broadcast. I am very much opposed to sale of Rainbow 1 and its licenses.